



639 High Road

1920

Nils John Nelson

Bungalow

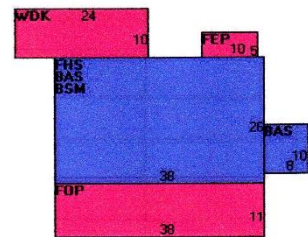
1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 56

1920 Nils John Nelson current owner: Josephine Nelson bungalow

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

Sketch

1930 current owner: Eric Martin & Lyssa Brooks



## Genealogy

Nils John Nelson was born in Denmark in 1870. He immigrated in 1890. He married Anna Olsson in September 1891 at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Manchester. In 1900 he purchased the land at 639 High Road from Charles Atwood. They had children including: Rose, John, Allen, Christy, Thomas, Norma, and Edward. He was a farmer. The house remained in the Nelson family for over 50 years.

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**  
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**  
 HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
 (203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM:	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR. SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	
1. BUILDING NAME (Common) #056 (Historic) Nils John Nelson House	
2. TOWN CITY Berlin	VILLAGE Kensington
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 639 High Road 8-3/38/30	
4. OWNER(S) Nelson, Josephine " " Kensington 06037 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) Residence (Historic) Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN	
7. STYLE OF BUILDING Bungalow DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c. 1920	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type:	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
10. ROOF (Type) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) (Material) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 1 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 38' x 28'	
12. CONDITION (Structural) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated (Exterior) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved WHEN? (Alterations) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN Siding	
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES <input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) cobblestone retaining wall <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS In a residential area of mostly modern homes, although one Greek revival house stands across the street.	

DESCRIPTION

#56

## 17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The three-bay facade has a central entry; a full-width front porch is formed by an extension of the main roofline. The porch features a cobblestone apron with round-arched openings, battered cobblestone columns, and concrete steps with flared cobblestone stair walls. The porch is treated asymmetrically, with the right bay under a single arched opening, and the entry and left bays under much wider and shallower openings. An additional set of steps, similar to the first, is found on the left side of the porch. On the roof is a single gabled dormer. Most sashes feature diamond-pane uppers and single-pane lowers. On the right elevation, there is a one-story hip-roofed bay window; the left elevation has an exterior cobblestone chimney flanked by small diamond-pane windows. Sunken steps lead from the left side of the porch to the driveway, which is protected (continued)

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built by Nils John Nelson, a factory operative who worked in New Britain, on a 14-acre parcel purchased from Charles Atwood in 1900. The property remained in the Nelson family for more than 50 years.

Architecturally, the house is significant as a well-preserved example of the Bungalow style, one of the most popular building types of the early 20th century. Like most bungalows, this dwelling is modest in scale. The extension of the roofline to form a front porch is a characteristic bungalow feature. Bungalow builders, influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement, also stressed the deliberate use of contrasting and picturesque architectural details. (seen in the use of cobblestone and polychrome brick, the flared stair walls of the porch, the use of round-arched openings, the battered porch columns, the exterior chimney, and the diamond-pane sash). The addition of modern aluminum siding has not greatly detracted from the (continued)

SOURCES

Berlin Land Records 44:547(1900)  
1928 Directory

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER HRC	DATE 11/84
	VIEW NE	NEGATIVE ON FILE E27
COMPILED BY	NAME Historic Resource Consultants The Colt Armory	DATE 12/84
	ADDRESS 55 Van Dyke Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06108	

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS



Nils John Nelson House

17. (continued):

by a cobblestone retaining wall. At the rear of the house is a framed-in porch, a pair of gabled dormers, and an additional chimney of polychrome brick.

19. (continued):

architectural importance of the house.